

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 24, 2016

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has long recognized the importance of the arts in K-12 public education. Substantive research continues to demonstrate that quality arts education enables students to be successful in their academic careers and later in life. Benefits include lower dropout rates for students, higher levels of college acceptance, and increased community engagement after graduation. Today, one in six jobs in Los Angeles County is generated by the creative industries, which produce 650,900 jobs and \$47.7 billion in labor income. If all LA County public school students are to be well prepared to compete for these jobs, then students attending public schools in all neighborhoods and regions of the County need to receive a quality public education, which by definition includes the arts.

Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue single subject teaching credentials in 13 subjects. It also requires that school districts maintaining grades 7-12 must offer, among other courses, visual and performing arts,

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including art, music, theater, or dance, in order to develop an aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression. Under the current system, persons who major in dance as an undergraduate can only teach dance after obtaining a credential in Physical Education. A theatre undergraduate can only teach theatre after receiving an English credential. SB 916 (Allen) would require the CTC to issue two new single subject teaching credentials; one in dance and one in theater, thus ensuring that highly qualified subject matter experts are teaching these mediums to our students.

High quality public education, that by definition includes the arts, is crucial to developing a robust, creative workforce in LA County. The County's 2015-16 State Legislative Agenda specifically supports proposals that would expand the role of arts education in public schools, including an increase in highly qualified arts educators.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct our Sacramento advocates to support SB 916 (Allen) which would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue single subject teaching credentials for dance and theater, respectively, and to advocate for its approval by the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 27, 2016.

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